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THE USL NASA PC R&D
INTERACTIVE PRESENTATION DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

IPDS is a very interactive system for creating, editing, and displaying video presentation sequences. It is designed for users with little or no computer experience, and can be used effectively with just a few minutes practice.

Users interact with IPDS through the keyboard, creating text with normal keys and invoking special functions with <alt> combinations and function keys. Once a particular screen is created it can be stored into a screen file for subsequent retrieval .

Script files may be created, containing a list of screen file names to be used in a presentation sequence. Users can step through the sequence forward or backward, focusing attention to areas of the screen with special cursor pointers. Screens may be dynamically modified during the presentation to show assignments or to answer questions, much like a traditional blackboard.

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The purpose of IPDS is to provide an easy to use system for creating and controlling video presentations. A description of IPDS features follows:

I. SET FOREGROUND COLOR

The <F1> key allows the user to select one of 16 foreground colors for subsequent characters.

II. SET BACKGROUND COLOR

The <F2> key allows the user to select one of 8 background colors for subsequent characters.

III. CLEAR SCREEN

The <F3> key clears the the screen work area to the current background color.

IV. SET BORDER COLOR

The <F4> key allows the user to select one of 8 colors for the border surrounding the screen work area.

V. SELECT VIDEO PAGE

The <F5> key allows the user to select the currently displayed video page; four are available.

VI. STORE SCREEN

Pressing the <F7> key will initiate the screen storage sequence. The prompt "filename:" will then be displayed. If the response is a valid file specification then the current video screen is saved in this file. If <return> is entered then no action is taken.

VII. RETREIVE SCREEN

Pressing the <F8> key will initiate the screen retrieval sequence. The prompt "filename:" will then be displayed. If the response is a valid and existent file specification the current video screen will be loaded with the screen stored in this file.

VIII. EXIT IPDS

Pressing <F9> will return the user to DOS.

IX. CREATE BLOCK

A block primitive is available to draw double line boxes. Its use requires three steps:

- 1) Position the cursor at the upper right hand corner of the intended block and press <ALT>7. This sets the first marker.
- 2) Position the cursor at the lower left hand corner of the intended block and press <ALT>6. This sets the second marker.
- 3) Press <ALT>8. This will draw the double line block with the previously specified corners.

X. SET CURSOR TYPE

Pressing the <ALT>9 combination allows the user to select the current cursor character. There are several pointers, an underscore, and a cross available.

XI. SELECT SCRIPT

Pressing the <ALT>0 combination will initiate the script selection sequence. The prompt "script:" will then be displayed. If the response is a valid script file specification then the current script will be this file.

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Pressing <PgDn> will cause the next screen to be read from the script list and displayed in the current video screen.

Pressing <PgUp> will cause the previous screen to be read from the script list and displayed in the current video screen.

Screens are created through any standard text editor and include quoted screen names with border color numbers.

XII. QUICK REFERENCE LIST

- <F1> - Next foreground color.
- <F2> - Next background color.
- <F3> - Clear screen.
- <F4> - Next border color.
- <F5> - Next video page.
- <F7> - Store screen.
- <F8> - Retrieve screen.
- <F9> - Exit IPDS.

- <ALT>6 - Set block marker 2.
- <ALT>7 - Set block marker 1.
- <ALT>8 - Draw double line block.
- <ALT>9 - Next cursor type.
- <ALT>0 - Select script file.

- <PgDn> - Display next screen in the script file.
- <PgUp> - Display previous screen in the script file.

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16. Abstract <p>The Interactive Presentation Development System (IPDS) is a highly interactive system for creating, editing, and displaying video presentation sequences, e.g., for developing and presenting displays of instructional material similar to overhead transparency or slide presentations. However, since this system is PC-based, users (e.g., instructors) can step through sequences forward or backward, focusing attention to areas of the display with special cursor pointers. Additionally, screen displays may be dynamically modified during the presentation to show assignments or to answer questions, much like a traditional blackboard. This system is now implemented at USL for use within the piloting phases of the NASA contract work.</p> <p>This report represents one of the 72 attachment reports to the University of Southwestern Louisiana's Final Report on NASA Grant NGT-19-010-900. Accordingly, appropriate care should be taken in using this report out of the context of the full Final Report.</p>			
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